

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 SY-05

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AF/C:RSTRAND

AF/E:WBCOOTE

P:THUTSON

M:LSEAGLEBURGER (DRAFT)

S/PRS:RFUNSETH (INFO)

S/S:CABORG

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O 252131Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149719

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEPHEN),
(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: PRESS GUIDANCE

REFS: (A) DAR 2261, (B) DAR 2243; (C) DAR 2197, (D) STATE
147472

1. DEPARTMENT UNCLEAR AS TO MEANING STATEMENT PARA 3,
REFTEL (B) QTE MR. HUNTER COULD ANSWER QUESTIONS CONCERN-
ING THE PAYMENT OF RANSOM UNQTE. PARENTS AND OTHER
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INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD BE STRONGLY URGED NOT TO REVEAL

THAT PRIVATE RANSOM WAS PAID. THIS ACCORDS WITH DISCUSSION
PARA 11 REFTEL (C) WITH PRP REPS. WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT
HUNTER (AND SMITH) SHOULD DECLINE TO COMMENT ON TERMS
OF AGREEMENT WHICH RESULTED IN RELEASE OF STUDENTS AND
PARTICULARLY, WOULD SAY NOTHING AS TO WHETHER RANSOM WAS
OR WAS NOT PAID. WE FEEL EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAT THEY
NOT REVEAL THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE U.S.
EMBASSY OR IN ANY WAY DISCUSS THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE USG
IN EFFECTING THE RELEASE.

2. POSTS SHOULD USE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO RESPOND TO
QUESTIONS RE RANSOM: QTE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PAY
RANSOM AND DOES NOT CONDONE PAYMENT OF RANSOM BY OTHER
PARTIES UNQTE. THIS WOULD SUPERSEDE LANGUAGE PARA 4
REFTEL (B). IF PRESSED TO EXPAND ON THIS STATEMENT,
RESPONSE SHOULD BE THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO ADD.

3. DAR AUTHORIZED VOLUNTEER STATEMENT REFTEL A UPON
DELETION FOLLOWING WORDS FROM LAST SENTENCE: QTE
AND JOINTLY EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE
COOPERATION OF BOTH THE GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE PARTIES
CONCERNED FOR THEIR PART IN SECURING THE RELEASE OF THE
THREE STUDENTS. UNQTE.

4. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WILL BE USED BY DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN IN NOON PRESS BRIEFING WHEN WE HAVE WORD OF
STUDENTS' SAFE RELEASE. POSTS SHOULD USE THIS GUIDANCE
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS.

QTE (TO BE VOLUNTEERED). OUR EMBASSY IN DAR ES SALAAM
HAS RECEIVED WORD FROM THE FATHER OF ONE OF THE KIDNAPPED
AMERICAN STUDENTS WHO IS IN KIGOMA THAT THE THREE
STUDENTS WHO HAD BEEN HELD IN CAPTIVITY SINCE BEING
KIDNAPPED FROM THE GOMBE STREAM RESEARCH CENTER IN
TANZANIA ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 19/20 HAVE BEEN RELEASED
UNHARMED. THE THREE ARE CARRIE JANE HUNTER AND STEVEN
SMITH, BOTH AMERICANS, AND EMILIE BERGMAN, A DUTCH
CITIZEN.

THE THREE STUDENTS WERE RETURNED TO KIGOMA, TANZANIA,
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AT (BLANK) O'CLOCK LOCAL TIME ON JUNE (BLANK). THEY ARE
REPORTED IN GOOD HEALTH AND ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN
DAR ES SALAAM (BLANK).

AMBASSADORS JAN VAN DEN BERG OF THE NETHERLANDS AND W.
BEVERLY CARTER, JR., OF THE UNITED STATES EXPRESSED
THEIR RELIEF AND JOY OVER THE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS.
(END STATEMENT TO BE VOLUNTEERED).

(ADVISORY FOR SPOKESMAN: IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT HOW THE RELEASE WAS OBTAINED OR THE TERMS, PARTICULARLY THE SENSITIVE SUBJECT OF RANSOM. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS TO BE USED ON AN "IF ASKED BASIS.")

QUESTION: THE CAPTORS HAD DEMANDED MONEY, GUNS AND AMMUNITION AND THE RELEASE OF THEIR COMRADES HELD IN TANZANIA. WERE THESE DEMANDS MET?

ANSWER: I CANNOT DISCLOSE WHAT WAS OR WHAT WAS NOT DONE TO SECURE THE SAFE RELEASE OF THE THREE STUDENTS.

Q. WAS RANSOM PAID?

A. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PAY RANSOM AND DOES NOT CONDONE PAYMENT OF RANSOM BY OTHER PARTIES. (IF PRESSED TO EXPAND ON THIS STATEMENT, RESPONSE SHOULD BE THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO ADD.)

Q. WE UNDERSTOOD THE STUDENTS WERE BEING HELD ON THE ZAIRE SIDE OF LAKE TANGANYIKA. HOW DID THEY GET BACK TO TANZANIA?

A. A PRIVATELY OWNED MOTOR BOAT WAS USED TO BRING THE STUDENTS ACROSS THE LAKE.

Q. HOW WAS THE AGREEMENT REACHED WHICH LED TO THE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS?

A. DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN TANZANIA WITH TWO INTER-MEDIARIES OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRP).
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Q. HOW WAS CONTACT ESTABLISHED WITH THEM?

A. THESE INTERMEDIARIES CONTACTED INTERESTED PARTIES IN TANZANIA.

Q. WHO TOOK PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRP INTER-MEDIARIES?

A. SEVERAL PEOPLE SAW THEM. DR. HAMBURG OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY AND THE AMERICAN STUDENTS' PARENTS PLAYED THE KEY ROLE. I WON'T GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. WERE U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS PRESENT WHEN THE STUDENTS WERE RELEASED?

A. NO.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES SATISFIED WITH THE COOPERATION FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF ZAIRE AND TANZANIA?

A. YES.

(ADVISORY FOR SPOKESMAN: RESPOND WITH "NO COMMENT" TO FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THE DEMANDS, THE AGREEMENT THAT WAS REACHED WITH THE KIDNAPPERS, WHERE THE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WITH THE PRP INTERMEDIARIES, WHO TOOK PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS, AND THE PERSONS PRESENT WHEN THE STUDENTS WERE RELEASED. QUERIES CONCERNING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE RELEASE SHOULD BE ANSWERED IN THE TERMS OF THE THIRD FROM LAST Q AND A EXCHANGE ABOVE.)

5. PARENTS MAY RAISE QUESTION OF USG ATTITUDE IN UN-LIKELY EVENT OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS AFTER SAFE RELEASE OF STUDENTS TO AVOID TURNOVER OF RANSOM MONEY. IF THIS ISSUE RAISED BY PARENTS YOU SHOULD REPLY THAT DECISION MUST BE MATTER OF THEIR OWN JUDGMENT.

6. WE ARE SENDING ABOVE FOR POSTS' USE AS NECESSARY. FURTHER GUIDANCE MAY FOLLOW RELATING TO AP AND UPI TICKER ITEMS (SENT SEPTTEL). KISSINGER
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